



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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SAF/AQK  
1060 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20330-1060

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FCC MAIL BRANCH

Ms Donna R. Searcy  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

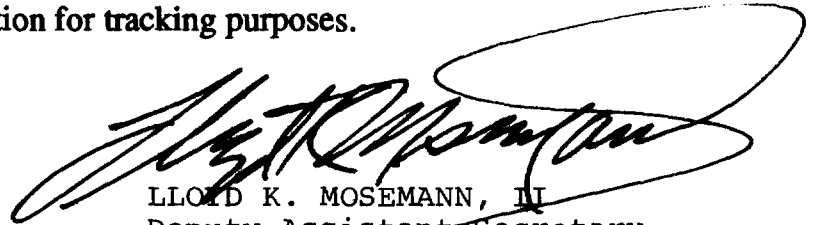
Dear Ms Searcy,

This refers to PR Docket No 93-143, "Amendment of the Marine Services Rules (Part 80) and Aviation Services Rules (Part 87) to Require Registration of 406 MHz Radiobeacons." The Department of Defense strongly supports the proposed FCC rule requiring registration of 406 MHz radiobeacons carried by the aviation and maritime communities.

DoD, through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, is responsible for coordination of federal resources for search and rescue (SAR) in the inland region of the 48 contiguous states. Registration of the 406 radiobeacon on the NOAA data base and ready access to registration information by SAR agencies save time and resources, and allow the search and rescue network to react to distress situations in a timely and effective manner.

Ninety-seven percent of all ELT/EPIRB signals are "false alarms" which, in addition to tying up scarce SAR resources, can mask a genuine distress signal. Mandatory registration of 406 MHz beacons allows SAR agencies to quickly resolve the vast majority of false alarms and provides opportunity for faster and more efficient response to an actual distress case. Access to registration information allows SAR agencies to evaluate beacon activation initially by telephone, often enabling deactivation of non-distress beacons prior to the launch of SAR forces. Also, registration information provides critical information to SAR teams concerning size and type of aircraft involved in distress. This allows better

DoD also concurs with the NOAA recommendation for point-of-sale registration in order to attain higher rates of registration. We recommend the aircraft registration number (tail number) be added to ELT information requirements to provide SAR agencies better information for tracking purposes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lloyd K. Mosemann, II", is written over a large, loopy oval shape.

LLOYD K. MOSEMAN, II  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Communications, Computers, and  
Support Systems)